This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for production of organic plant growth media from sawmill waste, said process comprising the steps of:

introducing comminuted sawmill waste comprising particulate pine bark having a layer of exogenous bark adhering to endogenous bark into an inlet of a conveyor mechanism containing a body of heated water including a chemical treatment composition selected from a pH modifier, plant nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, microbicides, parasiticides, fungicides or any combination thereof;

submerging said sawmill waste in said body of heated water for a predetermined period of time to kill microorganisms, insects, plant and animal parasites and the like whilst transporting treated sawmill waste towards an outlet of said conveyor mechanism wherein at least partial separation between said endogenous bark and said exogenous bark is effected by the application to said sawmill waste by said conveyor system of mechanical shear forces whilst said sawmill waste is submerged; and

at least partially dewatering said treated sawmill waste to a predetermined moisture content.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said comminuted sawmill waste comprises material of sawmill waste including sawdust, bark and woodchips alone or mixed with up to 20% ww of peat, spent mushroom compost,

animal or chicken manure, sewage sludge, waste vegetables or vegetable scraps, meat or bone meal of animal origin or the like or selected combinations thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein further at least partial separation of said exogenous bark and said endogenous bark is effected during or subsequent to said at least partial dewatering of said sawmill waste.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said body of water is heated to a temperature in the range 85° to 125°C.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said body of water is heated to a temperature in the range 100° TO 110°C.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sawmill waste suitably is comminuted to a particle size where substantially all said comminuted sawmill waste passes through a 12 mm screen before introduction into said conveyor system.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said treated sawmill waste comprising at least partially dewatered treated sawmill waste containing at least partially separated exogenous bark and endogenous bark is subjected to mechanical shear under pressure to loosen fibrous bonds in said at least partially dewatered treated sawmill waste to enhance moisture retention therein.

32. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said treated sawmill waste is at least partially dewatered in said conveyor mechanism adjacent an outlet port thereof.

33. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said treated sawmill waste is at least partially dewatered under the influence of mechanical pressure applied by said conveyor mechanism.

34. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said treated sawmill waste is at least partially dewatered in a rotary dewatering apparatus.